

HS

XENO
ZINE

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Meerka

Rome
iFer

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zinestuckjam





While all trolls have gills, not all are able to function under water. Below seadwellers, the muscles that allow the gills to extend from the neck are less likely to be fully functional, and further down the spectrum they also lose the ability to open the operculum at all. Once you reach the lowbloods, the number of gillslits begins to decrease as well.

While unable to be of help in the water, gills held internally still help with the respiration process, as air inhaled through the nose runs past them on the way to the lungs. While not ideal, they also afford a drowning troll a little more time to resolve the situation, though lungs full of water is still a problem.

Wigglers are vocal mimics. It's an important part of the Lusus-Troll relationship as the wiggler is able to learn to make the same sounds a hatchling of the lusus' own species would make, allowing them to more easily communicate with their custodian and helping to cement the bond between the two.

The troll will lose this ability as they age, subsequent molts making their squawkbox more solid and fixed. Any sounds they habitually make at this point will stay in their vocabulary permanently, which is a leading factor in the quirk phenomenon as it results in a sort of "accent" which the troll will be identifiable through.

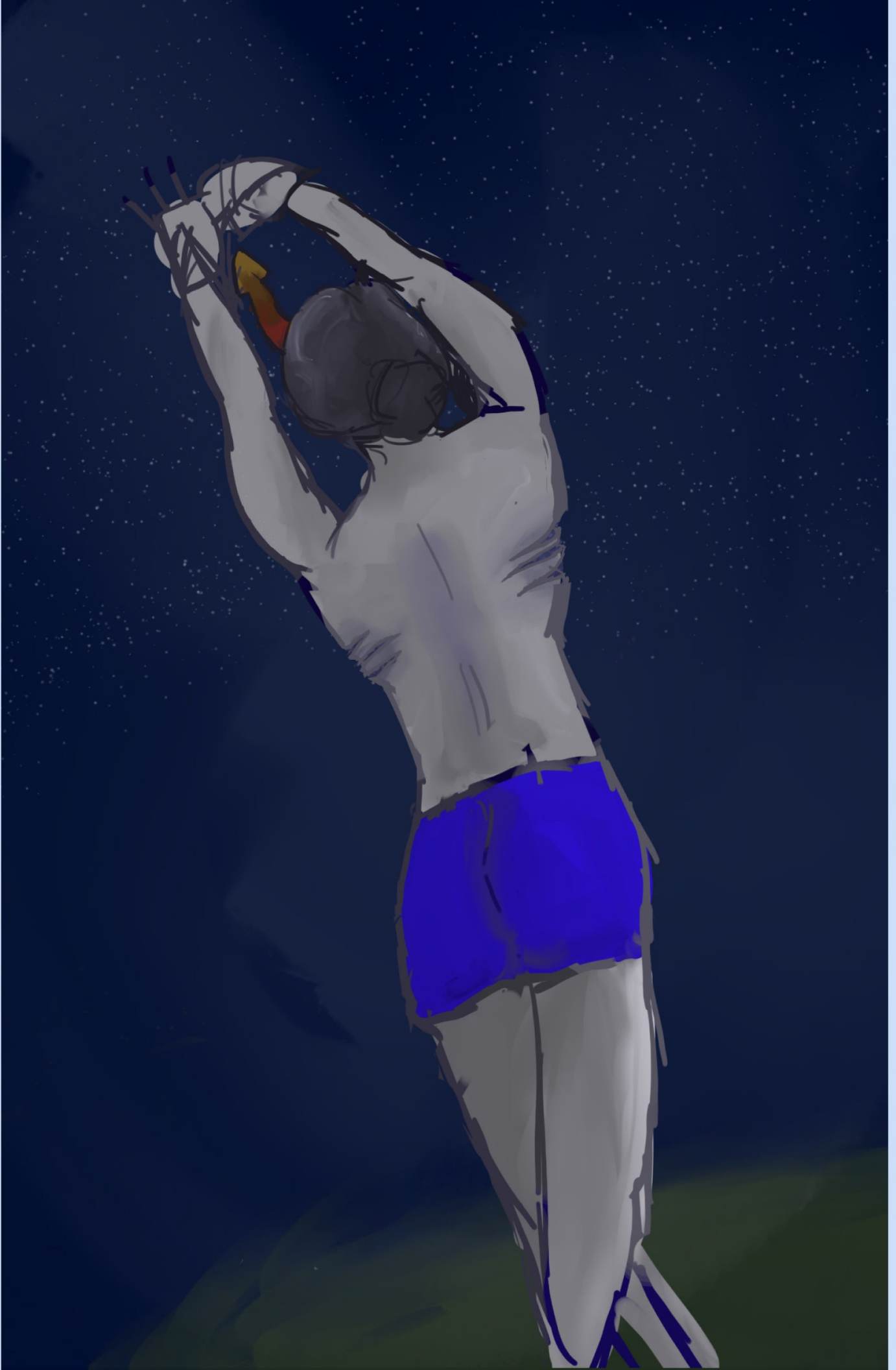
Written alternian has characters for these sounds, and trolls are encouraged to include them as they are important for individuality and conveying emotion, personality and intent, as there are commonalities amongst those raised by similar types of lussi.

Translators have to be creative in conveying a facet or two of this that they deem most relevant to the troll

The closer one is to one's lusus, the stronger this custodial accent is. Conversely, trolls who don't spend much time with their lusus may instead pick up other environmental sounds, the quirks of nearby trolls, or even those of media figures if they watch them often enough.

A lack of verbal quirk is noticeable and odd, though it may be seen as a boon in certain positions in the fleet. Notably, trolls who are either naturally quirkless or can fake it have the option of going into the schoolfeeding field, and have an advantage in media in general, as it would be detrimental to teach wigglers quirks from foreign lussi.

While in ancient times jadebloods raised by mother grubs were considered accentless, modern technology has allowed trolls scientists to narrow Alternian down even further, removing even those sounds natural to other troll castes. Thus, to be considered naturally quirkless a troll would generally have to have no other habitual audio influences than the schoolfeeding itself.



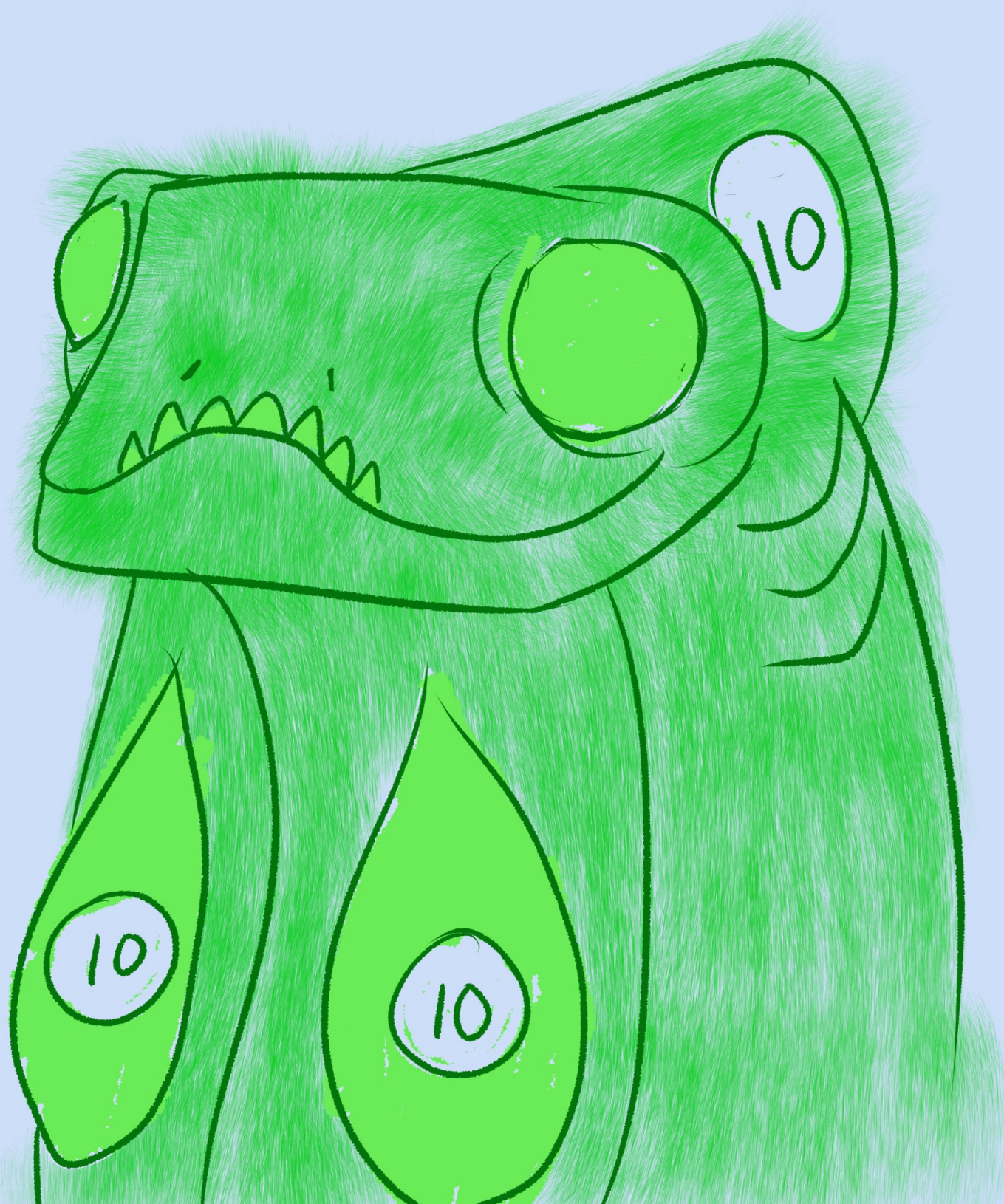




A felt's throat sac is used much like that of a frog - filled with air to increase the volume and resonance of their voice. Like the greater sage-grouse' gular sac, the two brightly coloured organs on either side of the throat sac can also be inflated as a territorial, defensive or flirting display.

These organs, like the fin and the ubiquitous hat, are traditionally adorned with the leprechaun' numerical designation.

The felts are covered in a symbiotic algae. It is stiff but fuzzy to the touch out of water and slick and slimy in water. It helps keep the felts' skin moist, protects it from the elements, and looks very stylish.

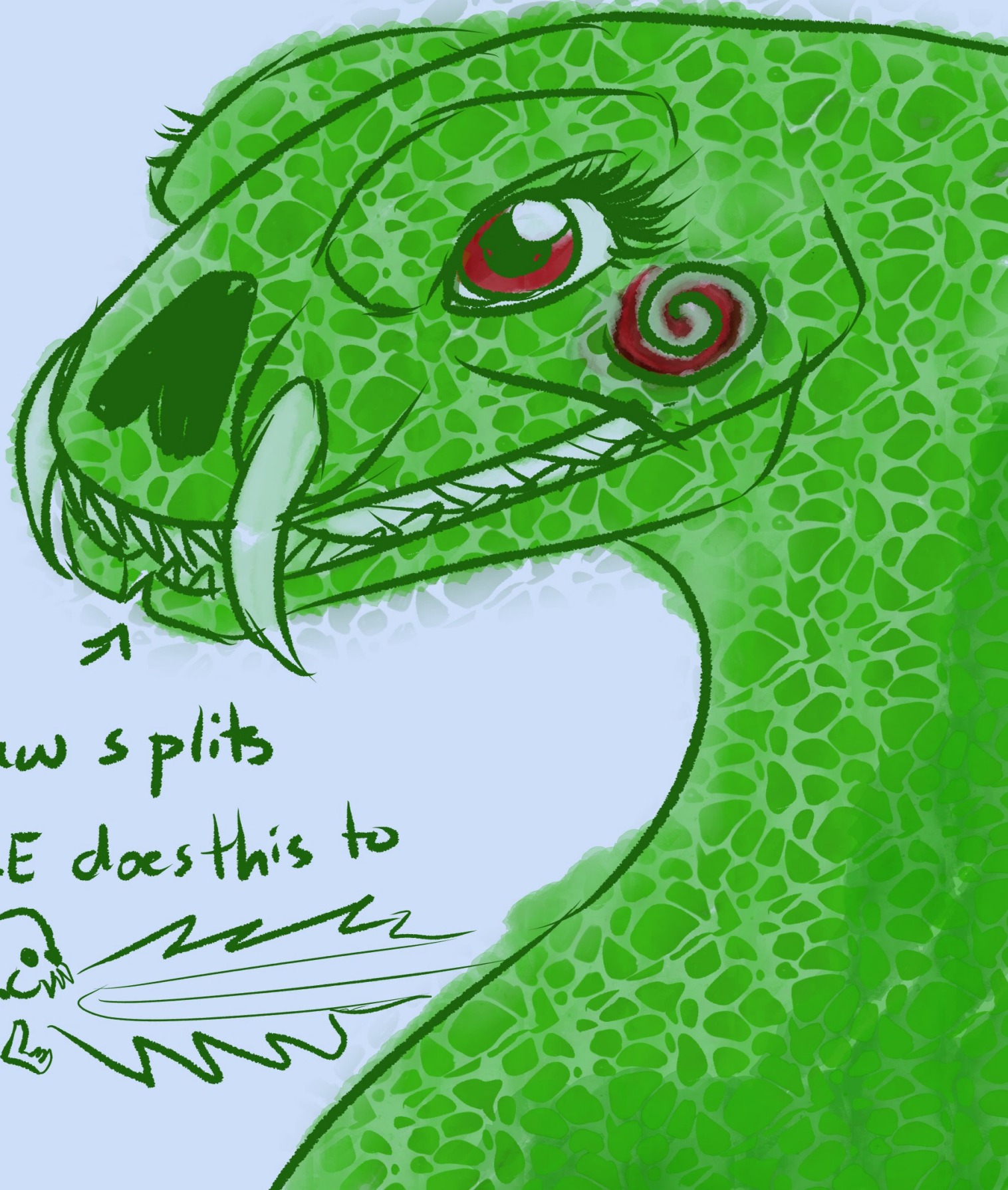






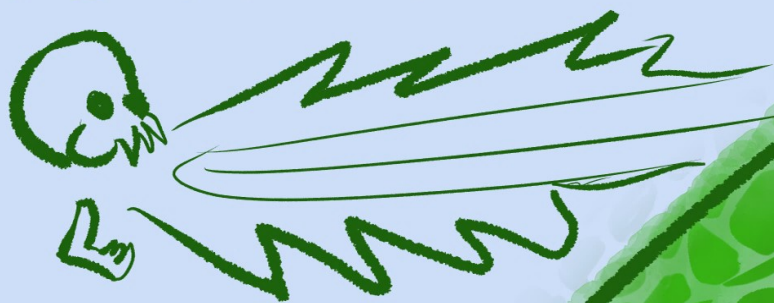
Cherub life cycle

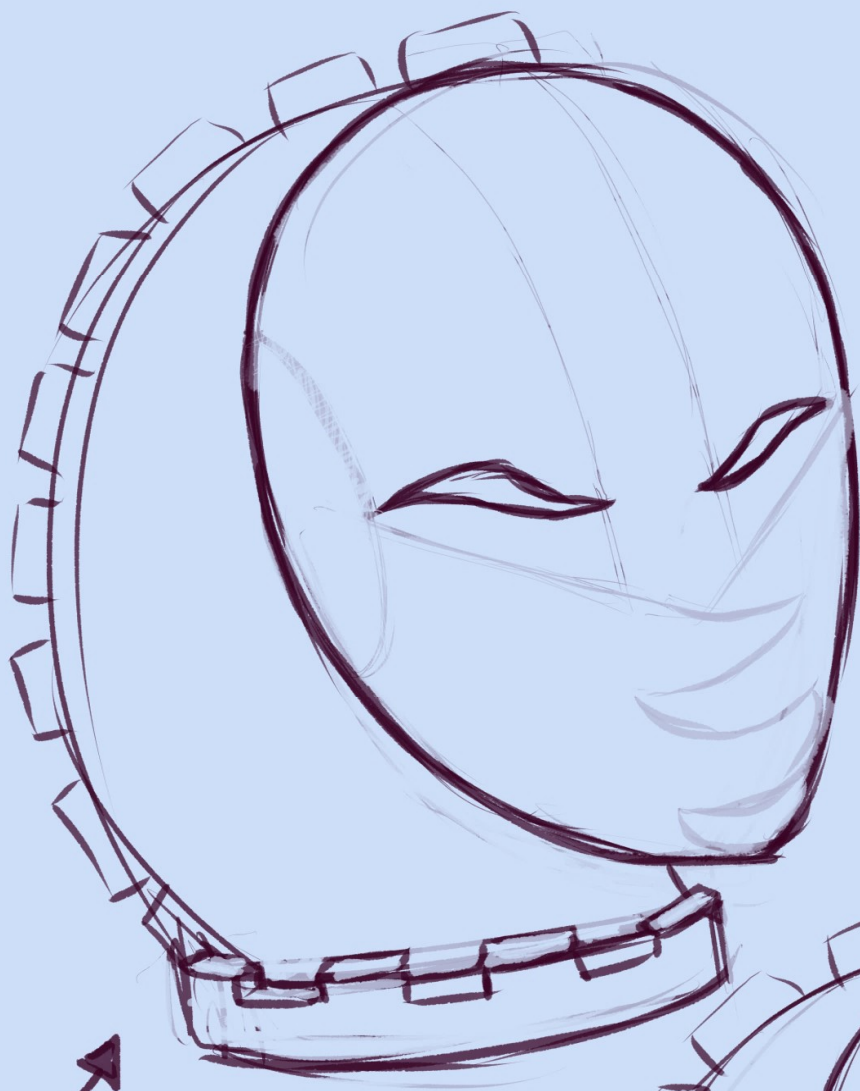




Jaw splits

LE does this to

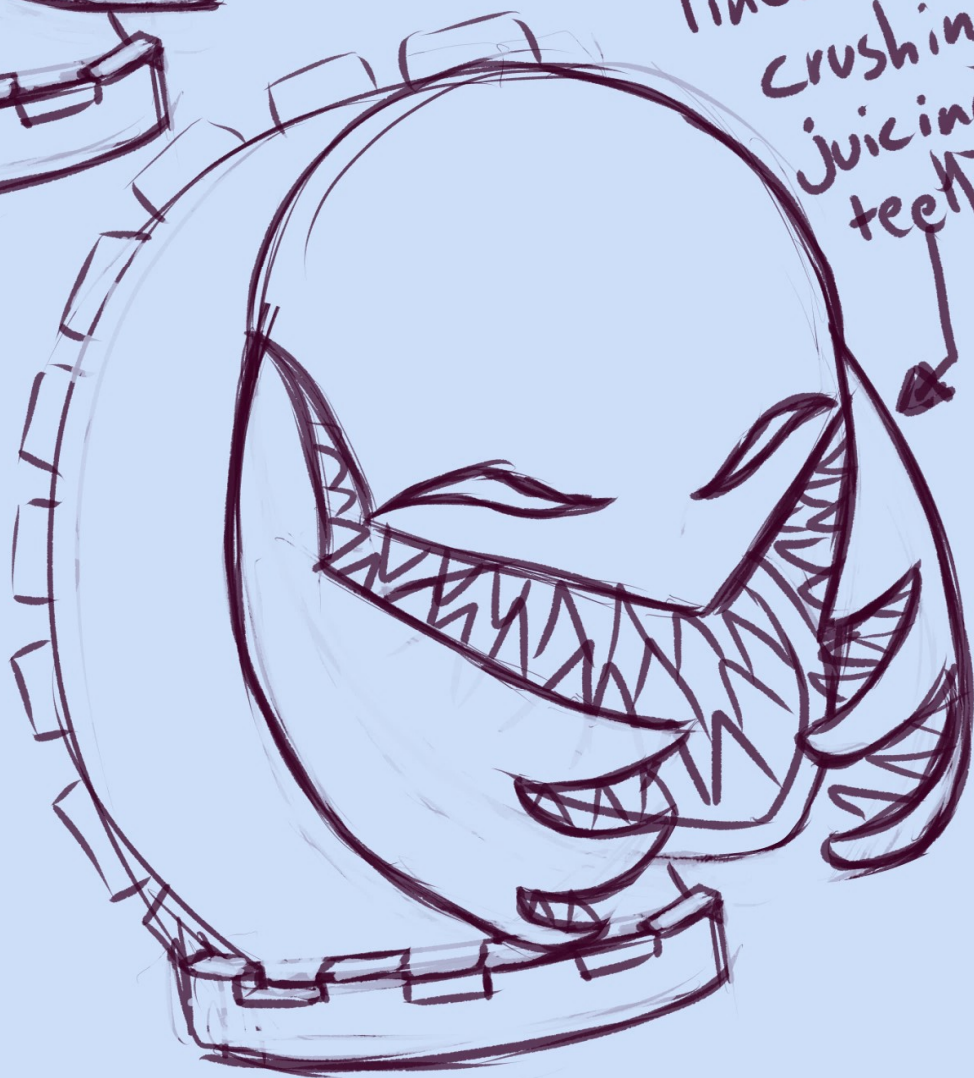




slots together
near seamlessly

somehow between
chitin, bioplastic, and
nacre.

Hard + strong but
with some flex.



lined with
crushing/
juicing
teeth

Carapacians are a semi-organic, highly technology-reliant species. Even barring the rings present in S-b sessions, their bodies are modular in design, and when a pawn has proven themselves ready and willing to change castes, (usually through one of many coming-of-age rituals known collectively as "crossing the board") they may apply to have the necessary parts lab-grown according to their chosen status - such as rook, recursive bishop, pawn2, or megachessatron.

Some pieces have stricter requirements, are only granted in wartimes, or when those positions are available to be filled. Queenship for instance is only an option if the previous queen is absent, dead, or has given her personal approval to the carapacian in question in addition to completion of a notoriously difficult board-crossing.

In the modern era, new colonies are begun with a starter set of pieces grown on-site as adults with preset jobs and personalities for a solid base of operations. This made them ideal for SkaiaLabs to hijack for their S-b project.

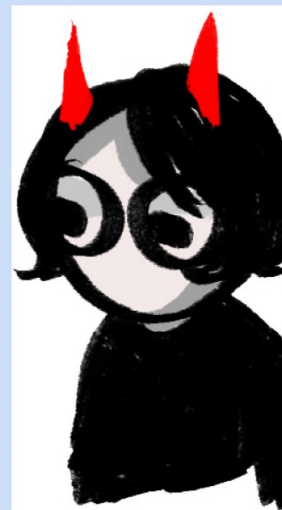


Tavros and Karkat by Candycornskull

candycornskull on tumblr

Terezi by Meerka

neomirnos on Twitter & Instagram



Equius by Rome

Caterpillar-arts on Tumblr

caterpillar_art on Twitter

Zine organized & filled out by ifer

ArtByIfer on Tumblr & Patreon

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